



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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@USDA_NIFA



FACT SHEET

2014 FARM BILL | IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMODITY BOARDS PROVISION

THE 2014 FARM BILL allows eligible national and state commodity boards to propose topics for research that they are willing to equally co-fund with NIFA. Such topics must relate to the established priority areas of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (AFRI) to be considered for inclusion in future AFRI Requests for Applications (RFAs).

Eligible commodity boards must address an agricultural commodity that:

- Includes a combination of promotion, research, industry information, or consumer information activities;
- Is funded by mandatory assessments on producers or processors; and
- Is designed to maintain or expand markets and uses for the commodity (as determined by the Secretary).

Federal Register Notice 2015-18120, "Solicitation of Commodity Board Topics and Contribution of Funding Under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program, Implementation," published July 24, which invited topic submissions from commodity boards as defined above, outlined the process NIFA will use to evaluate the appropriateness of these topics for inclusion in AFRI RFAs, and described the commitment commodity boards will be required to make to NIFA to jointly fund AFRI applications selected for award in their topic area.

In late September or early October, NIFA will announce the selection of topics, and notify selected commodity boards. Commodity

boards that did not have their topics selected at that time may resubmit at anytime thereafter for consideration in future RFAs.

TOPICS CRITERIA/SELECTIONS

Topics must relate to the established AFRI priority areas, which are plant health and production and plant products; animal health and production and animal products; food safety, nutrition, and health; renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; agriculture systems and technology; and agriculture economics and rural communities.

Commodity boards must match AFRI awarded funds, if grant applications are selected for award in the topic area they proposed. Researchers wishing to propose a project on the topic suggested by a commodity board will be required to obtain a letter of support from the co-funding commodity board.

NIFA may either accept or reject any proposed topic based on established criteria. Topics that are accepted will be incorporated into future AFRI RFAs, as appropriate.

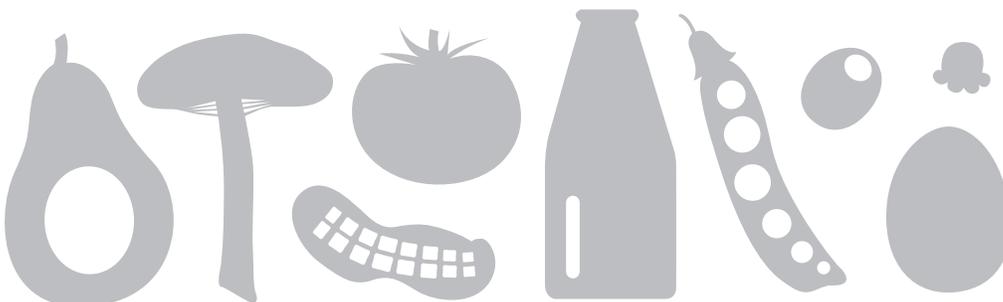
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USDA RECOGNIZES 22 ORGANIZATIONS THAT MEET THIS DEFINITION:

1. Beef Board
2. Blueberry Council
3. Christmas Tree Board
4. Cotton Board
5. Dairy Board
6. Egg Board
7. Fluid Milk Board
8. Hass Avocado Board
9. Honey Board
10. Lamb Board
11. Mango Board
12. Mushroom Council
13. Paper and Paper-Based Packaging
14. Peanut Board
15. Popcorn Board
16. Pork Board
17. Potato Board
18. Processed Raspberry Council
19. Softwood Lumber Board
20. Sorghum Board
21. Soybean Board
22. Watermelon Board

USDA ALSO RECOGNIZES THE FOLLOWING MARKETING ORDER BOARDS:

- Oregon/Washington pears (fresh and processed)
- California olives
- Georgia Vidalia onions
- SE Washington/NW Oregon Walla Walla Valley sweet onions
- Idaho/Oregon onions
- Florida tomatoes
- California almonds
- Oregon/Washington hazelnuts
- Riverside County, California domestic dates
- California raisins



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(CONTINUED)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1

WHY IS NIFA IMPLEMENTING THIS COMMODITY BOARD PROGRAM?

The 2014 Farm Bill (Section 7404) requires USDA to establish procedures and a timeline under which federal or state commodity boards can propose topics for funding under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Requests for Applications (RFAs).

2

WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE COMMODITY BOARD?

Eligible commodity boards must address an agricultural commodity that:

- Includes a combination of promotion, research, industry information, or consumer information activities;
- Is funded by mandatory assessments on producers or processors; and
- Is designed to maintain or expand markets and uses for the commodity (as determined by the Secretary).

3

WHAT TYPE OF TOPICS SHOULD COMMODITY BOARDS SUBMIT?

Commodity boards should only submit topics that have a strong economic impact on their industry. See FAQ 5 for selection factors.

4

WHEN SHOULD TOPICS BE SUBMITTED?

See NIFA Commodity Board Information at nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards for details.

5

HOW WILL RESEARCH TOPICS BE SELECTED?

NIFA will screen proposed research topics to ensure they were submitted by eligible commodity boards and consult with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to determine that submissions and proposed financial contributions are consistent with commodity promotion laws and commodity boards' charters as applicable.

Commodity board topics will be reviewed by an internal panel based on evaluation criteria that were developed using stakeholder input from commodity boards and other stakeholders from government, industry, and academia.

Each topic will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with one or more of the statutory AFRI priority areas
- Alignment with the President's budget proposal for NIFA, as identified in the Department of Agriculture's annual budget submission; and
- Alignment with the priority areas in the AFRI RFAs to be released by NIFA during the fiscal year for which the commodity board is proposing a topic for funding (for example, within the AFRI Foundational Program RFA, the AFRI Animal Health and Production and Animal Product's "Animal Reproduction" priority area).

6

WHEN WILL THE TOPICS BE SELECTED?

The goal is to select topics for inclusion in the fiscal year 2016 AFRI RFAs no later than 75 days after the *Federal Register* Notice is published and 15 days after the published deadline.

7

WHEN WILL THE TOPICS BE INCLUDED IN NIFA AFRI RFAS?

Topics will be included beginning in FY16 RFAs.

8

HOW MUCH FUNDING MUST COMMODITY BOARDS CONTRIBUTE FOR THEIR SELECTED TOPICS?

For each topic the commodity board proposes to support, the minimum amount they must provide is \$150,000 and the maximum amount is \$2.5 million total. NIFA does not intend to match funding from a single commodity board in excess of \$10 million in any year.

9

IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY TOPICS A COMMODITY BOARD MAY SUBMIT OR THE NUMBER OF AWARDS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT?

There is no limit to the number of topics. Commodity boards may propose support for multiple awards for each topic proposed.

10

IF A COMMODITY BOARD'S TOPIC WAS NOT SELECTED, WHAT OPTIONS DO THEY HAVE?

Topics may be submitted by commodity boards at any time. Topics submitted by eligible commodity boards will be considered for RFAs to be issued in future years.

USEFUL LINKS

NIFA COMMODITY BOARD INFORMATION

nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

nifa.usda.gov/program/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative

GRANTS

nifa.usda.gov/grants

NIFA PROGRAM

nifa.usda.gov/programs